



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

May 9, 2016

The Honorable Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor  
Gila River Indian Community  
525 West Gu u Ki  
Post Office Box 97  
Sacaton, AZ 85247

Dear Governor Lewis:

Over the last 10 years, the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and US EPA Region 9 have been working together to address contamination located at the former Romic Southwest (Romic SW) facility on the Lone Butte Industrial Park. The partnership has been a unique and outstanding success and a model for federal and tribal partnerships at contaminated properties. Recently however, Romic SW dissolved as a corporation and forfeited to EPA \$425,000 held in trust to ensure cleanup of contamination from the facility. On the advice of our Joint GRIC/EPA Project Management Team I am writing to propose that the GRIC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) now assume the lead for finalizing the remedy at the former Romic SW facility, and to directly access the financial assurance funds provided by the responsible party to address the residual contamination.

As co-managers of the project, the GRIC DEQ has represented to my staff that it is interested in performing the remaining corrective action, if funds were available. After close and collaborative consultation, I am proposing to amend the Trust Agreement to make GRIC a direct beneficiary for the purpose of performing that corrective action that EPA previously ordered Romic SW to perform. As a direct beneficiary of the Trust, GRIC could receive reimbursement directly from the Trust for any corrective action activities it performs related to the Romic SW site, up to the total amount set aside (\$425,000). There are no additional EPA funds available for this project. The EPA would continue the joint collaborative effort, supporting and advising DEQ. However, DEQ would be the lead decision-making agency.

If this proposal is agreeable we should utilize the formal consultation process outlined in the EPA *Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* ([www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm)). I would like to invite you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process. We anticipate a timeline for the consultation and coordination period to extend thirty (30) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this matter, or have your staff contact Angela Sandoval at (415) 972-3831, as my representative on the Joint GRIC/EPA Project Management Team. Our attorney for this Project is Rebecca Sugerman, she can be reached at (415) 972-3893. I look forward to the continuing partnership and cooperation between our offices as we address the contamination at the Lone Butte Industrial Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Scott", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jeff Scott, Director  
Land Division